

fairly bright, midway between first quarter and full moon; and there was no cloud cover. The incident followed a fall of 134 points of rain, although none had fallen for 20 hours. The birds preened for slightly more than ten minutes during which they were watched continuously with a head-torch.

—JOHN DELL, Kalamunda

Irruption of White-winged Black Terns, 1970.—An irruption of White-winged Black Terns (*Chlidonias leucoptera*) occurred in the Perth metropolitan area between February 7 and 25, 1970. I first noted the birds on February 7 at Jackadder Lake; a flock of 45 were diving for small fish. Several of the terns appeared exhausted and only flew reluctantly when approached. Subsequent observations revealed that the terns spent most of the mornings feeding over nearby vacant land, feeding on grasshoppers. One bird was seen to capture and consume a large skink. During the afternoon the terns returned to the lake.

Observations sent to me by Messrs. T. Spence, R. H. Stranger, M. Ellis and Dr. D. L. Serventy revealed that the terns were seen at the following localities:

Riverton Bridge, 9 birds
Lake Yanchep, 100+ birds
Bibra Lake, 11 birds
Lake Richmond, 2 birds
Mongers Lake, 70+ birds
Jackadder Lake, 45 birds

The terns had all disappeared by February 25. Undoubtedly this irruption was associated with Cyclone Glynis which had moved down the Western Australian coast during the week prior to February 11.

—BRIAN HUTCHISON, Woodlands

Records of the Spotted Bower-bird in the Murchison District.—Serventy and Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 4th. edn., 1967, p. 419) give the south-western limits of the range of occurrence of the Spotted Bower-bird (*Chlamydera maculata*) as the middle reaches of the Gascoyne River, Meekatharra and Malcolm. I now present evidence extending the bird's occurrence somewhat to the south of these limits.

During a holiday trip with the family to the Cue district in August 1969 we went out to Poona, 40 miles N.W. of Cue and south of the Weld Range. While at lunch near a dry watercourse, east of the airstrip by Finn Ryan's camp, my wife and I saw a bird fly into a low branch of a mulga. I did not have time to get my binoculars but I am sure that it was a Spotted Bower-bird. I doubt if any other bird, likely to be seen, would be so markedly spotted. I was not able to detect the nuchal collar before the bird flew off, as it was partly obscured by foliage. I noticed a small native fig, *Ficus platypoda*, near the watercourse. Serventy and Whittell believe that distribution of the bower-bird is largely determined by that of the wild fig.

I mentioned the observation to a correspondent, Mr W. M. Jones of Cue, who wrote in reply: "With reference to the bower-bird you mentioned about. If I remember right there are some out at Tuckabiana way but just casually we called them Mimie Birds in years gone by. There are several heaps of stones out there comprising about 1 cwt. of small stones, and these are supposed to be their playgrounds, according to what I have heard." Mr Jones added that he often went out of the camp to look for a cat or dog, induced to do so by the calls, but only saw the "Mimie Birds." Tuckabiana is 15 miles E.S.E. of Cue.

—DAVID HUTCHISON, Wembley Downs

Possible Sighting of European Curlew at Point Peron.—The inclusion of the European Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) on the Australian bird list is based solely on sight observations at Nightcliff, in the Darwin area, in March and April, 1948, by the American ornithologist, Herbert D. Deignan (*Records of the American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land*, 4, 1964 : 369). I now report a very probable occurrence of the species at Point Peron.